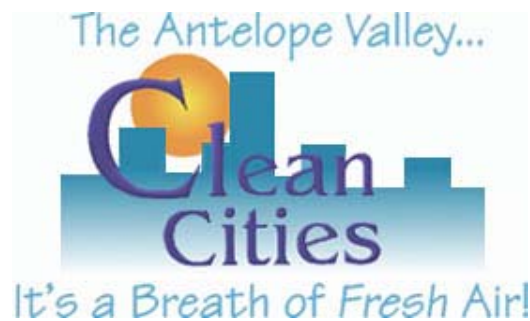


Air Waves

AVAQMD Newsletter
Spring 2002





ANTELOPE VALLEY CLEAN CITIES COALITION UPDATE

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? The old saying applies when trying to establish alternate fuels in the Antelope Valley. Businesses, municipalities, and individuals interested in operating alternate fuel vehicles are always asking, "If I buy an alternate fuel vehicle where will I fuel up?" Without fueling stations, buying an alternate fuel vehicle isn't practical, but without the demand for vehicles that require alternate fuel, building new fueling stations is equally impractical, so where do you start?

Building on local initiative, Clean Cities has become the local market place where people can gather to learn how to purchase alternate fueled vehicles, where to fuel them, and what funding opportunities may be available to assist in the development of local alternate fuel fleets. The Antelope Valley Clean Cities Coalition (AVCCC) is working closely with local government and businesses to establish alternate fueling sites throughout the Antelope Valley to support daily operation of all types and sizes of alternate fueled vehicles.

Until recently, if you drove a vehicle fueled by compressed natural gas (CNG), CNG fueling options were limited to a single fueling station. As of December 2001, a second CNG fueling station became operational in the Antelope Valley to support the growing number of **CNG** vehicles operating in the High Desert. The City of Palmdale also has plans to include a CNG fueling station at the new Palmdale Transport Center. There are **electric charging** stations to support electric vehicles throughout the City of Lancaster. With the help of grant funding provided by the AVAQMD, Waste Management is constructing a public access **liquefied natural gas** (LNG) fueling site at their Palmdale location in support of the new additions to their fleet of six LNG powered refuse trucks. Propane dispensing units are already available throughout the Antelope Valley. To date, the AVAQMD and the AVCCC has acquired and distributed over two million dollars for use in supporting the growth of alternate fuels in the Antelope Valley.

While the fueling infrastructure is being created, the overall success of establishing the use of alternate fuels in the AV lies with the local community. Citizens of the Antelope Valley can continue to support the growth of alternate fuels by purchasing alternate fuel vehicles, operating them during their daily routines and requesting additional infrastructure support from local agencies. These efforts will build the momentum that will effect change, ultimately providing numerous benefits, improving local air quality and quality of life throughout the entire valley.

For additional Antelope Valley Clean Cities Coalition information please contact Bret Banks at (661) 723-8070

DISTRICT, JET HAWKS TEAM UP FOR “ADVANCING THE CHOICE OF ALTERNATE FUELS” EVENT

In an effort to encourage local businesses, organizations and the public to make the switch to clean fuel vehicles, the AVAQMD teamed up with the Lancaster Jet Hawks to present a variety of alternate fuel vehicles, large and small, during an “Advancing the Choice of Alternate Fuels” event on May 10 at Lancaster Municipal Stadium, prior to the Jet Hawks’ game. The event, which was sponsored by the District and the Antelope Valley Clean Cities Coalition, featured an array of information about alternate fuel vehicles, including material on available cash incentives, rebates and buy down opportunities. The centerpiece of the event was an exhibit featuring natural gas, propane and electric powered vehicles operated by AV businesses and agencies such as Danone Water, the Antelope Valley Schools Transportation Agency, and the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale. In addition, Honda and Global Motor Cars also displayed their latest electric and hybrid vehicles during the event.

As an added attraction, the winners of the AVAQMD’s 2002 Clean Air Month Poster Contest and their teachers were recognized for their winning efforts during the May 10 Jet Hawk game. This year’s contest theme was “Clean Air Makes a Difference.” The contest was co-sponsored by Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company/Palmdale, the Air & Waste Management Association’s Mojave Desert Chapter and Wal-Mart. First, second and third place winners in these age categories were awarded \$100, \$75 and \$50 savings bonds, respectively: 4-7, 8-11, 12-15 and 16-18 (see winners’ names listed below). Each of the winning posters will be featured in the District’s 2003 calendar.

AVAQMD 2002 CLEAN AIR MONTH POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

<u>Place</u>	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>
1 st	4-7	Kaetlyn Welsh	Del Sur
2 nd	4-7	Gretta Czarnocki	Del Sur
3 rd	4-7	Aliya Manguramas	Del Sur
1 st	8-11	Alexa Gaddis	Q.H. Elem.
2 nd	8-11	Mary L. Gongob	Joshua Hills
3 rd	8-11	Ashley Griffith	Sacred Heart
1 st	12-15	Heather Lyle	Palmdale H.S.
2 nd	12-15	Jenna Novelli	Sacred Heart
3 rd	12-15	Gudelia Baires	Palmdale H.S.
1 st	16-18	Jason Anderson	Lancaster H.S.
2 nd	16-18	Rudy Lopez	Division St. CDS
3 rd	16-18	Ian McClung	Q.H.H.S.
Cover Design	16-18	Michele Lindsey	Palmdale H.S.



Jet Hawk Stadium - Advancing the Choice



2002 Clean Air Month Poster Contest Winners

New CNG Fueling Station Now Open in Lancaster

On February 19, 2002, Pinnacle CNG System, Inc., the Gas Company, the Antelope Valley Clean Cities Coalition and the AVAQMD hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony during the grand opening of the region's newest compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station. The public access station is located at 44416 Division Street in Lancaster, at the Gas Company's facility.

The station was funded through Assembly Bill (AB) 2766 grant monies are designed to fund projects that reduce mobile source emissions, provided by the AVAQMD. AB 2766 monies are derived from Department of Motor Vehicle registration fees and the District receives a portion of these fees for every vehicle registered within its jurisdiction.



The Division Street station is the second natural gas filling site to open in the City of Lancaster. The CNG station will be open to the public as well as Antelope Valley businesses which operate natural gas fueled vehicles, such as Verizon, Los Angeles County, the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, the Antelope Valley Schools Transportation Agency, and the Gas Company. According to Steven Anthony, Natural Gas Vehicle Account Manager for The Gas Company, all major automotive manufacturers now produce CNG vehicles. Anthony recently purchased a Honda Civic Hybrid for his personal use, and received a rebate, which

covered the price differential. According to Anthony, CNG vehicles are priced a little higher than conventionally fueled vehicles, normally about \$3,000 to \$4,000 more, depending on the vehicle.

According to Bret Banks, AVAQMD District Operations Manager, the District offers incentive programs designed to make up for CNG buyers' incremental price difference (depending on the vehicle). "Most air districts throughout the state do something like that to try to encourage the use of alternate fuel vehicles," Banks said.

CNG is the cleanest burning motor fuel and eliminates many of the air emissions associated with burning gasoline or diesel fuel to power engines. There are more than 20,000 natural gas vehicles in use throughout the state and more than 90,000 in use nationwide according to information provided by the Gas Company, which currently operates approximately 900 natural gas vehicles statewide. Natural gas vehicles continue to grow in popularity due to their lower operating costs and their benefit to air quality. Moreover, CNG-equipped vehicles get about the same gas mileage as those that use petroleum-based fuels.

To learn more about cash incentives available to alternate fueled vehicle buyers, call the AVAQMD at (661) 723-8070.

D.C. CIRCUIT COURT UPHOLDS FEDERAL CLEAN AIR STANDARDS

The decision is clear – EPA’s clean air standards will go into effect to protect Americans from a wide variety of health problems caused by air pollution, such as respiratory illnesses and premature death. The D.C. Circuit Court has rejected all remaining challenges to EPA’s 1997 protective ambient air standards for fine particles (soot) and ground-level ozone (smog). As a result, the EPA is now stepping up with programs to implement those standards and help states meet them.

The “unanimous decision is a significant victory in EPA’s ongoing efforts to protect the health of millions of Americans from the dangers of air pollution,” said EPA Administrator Christie Whitman. According to Whitman, the EPA now has a clear path to move forward to ensure that all Americans can breathe cleaner air.

Additionally, the Clear Skies initiative—an ambitious plan put forward by President Bush—is expected to reduce power plant emissions of three key pollutants by 70 percent. The court ruling strengthens the case for the initiative by affirming the EPA’s approach to regulating emissions that cause smog and acid rain. When enacted, the Clear Skies initiative is expected to make significant strides towards meeting both fine particle and ozone standards.

EPA’s new standards were originally challenged by the American Trucking Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other state and business groups. In February 2001, the Supreme Court upheld EPA’s authority under the Clean Air Act to set national air quality standards that protect the American public from the harmful effects of air pollution. The Court rejected a claim that EPA acted arbitrarily in setting the national ambient air quality standards. The three-judge panel unanimously found that EPA “engaged in reasoned decision-making” in establishing levels that protect public health and the environment.

The Clean Air Act requires that EPA review its ambient air standards every five years to make sure they reflect the latest and best scientific evidence. In 1997, based on thousands of new health studies, EPA toughened the standards for smog and, for the first time, set a standard specifically for fine particles equal to or smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter. Fine particles include airborne soot from sources such as diesel trucks and industrial processes.



DISTRICT TRANSITIONS TO AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The Antelope Valley had one more reason to celebrate the start of 2002: on January 1, its local air agency – formerly known as the Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control District (AVAPCD) - officially became the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD).

Before the first of the year, the Antelope Valley's air district had been considered a Los Angeles County "special district," a classification which made it subject to numerous regulations tailored to L.A. County departments, instead of to regulatory air agencies. The District's redesignation to an air quality management district affords the agency greater autonomy and flexibility over its own budget, enables it to implement its own personnel system, and facilitates internal housekeeping matters. Boundaries, Governing Board structure and air regulations remain unchanged.

The redesignation marks the latest milestone in the District's evolution, which began with its creation in 1997. In response to local concerns about applying the same stringent air quality regulations to Antelope Valley businesses as those applied to businesses located in the polluted, urban Los Angeles basin, Senator William J. "Pete" Knight (R-Palmdale) successfully sponsored Assembly Bill (AB) 2666 in 1996. The legislation subsequently carved the AVAPCD out of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, thus creating a separate, locally-controlled air district for the Antelope Valley.



In early 2000 – in an effort to further increase the local air district's autonomy – Senator Knight introduced legislation to reclassify the AVAPCD to an AQMD. After the bill stalled at the close of the 2000 legislative session, Assemblyman George Runner (R-Lancaster) reintroduced it in February of 2001 as AB 771. The bill was subsequently signed into law by Governor Gray Davis in August of last year.



To commemorate its transition to an AQMD, the District hosted an Inaugural Lunch on January 15 at the Plaza Park Hotel in Lancaster.

AVAQMD SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR AIRE AWARDS

The AVAQMD is now accepting nominations for its fourth annual awards for Achievement in Reducing Emissions (AIRE), which recognize outstanding contributions towards the reduction and/or prevention of air pollution within the Antelope Valley.



Eligible candidates for the 2001/2001 awards include local businesses, industries, schools, agencies, organizations and individuals who demonstrate an exceptional commitment to clean air through the development of voluntary air pollution reduction and/or prevention programs. Nominated entities/projects must be located within the AVAQMD's jurisdictional boundaries, and nominated individuals must reside within the District. Candidates may be self-nominated or nominated by a second party.

Last year the AIRE award was presented to Richard Campbell, a local conservationist, for his continuing contributions to dust mitigation in the Antelope Valley; to

Greystone Homes/Somervale Estates, a Lancaster-based home builder, for exceptional dust mitigation efforts throughout the construction process; and to Danone Waters of North America (DWNA), a nationwide water distribution company, for establishing a fleet of dedicated liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) fueled delivery trucks in the Antelope Valley.

Nominations must be postmarked or received at the AVAQMD by Thursday, August 15 at 5:00 P.M. The AIRE Awards will be presented during National Pollution Prevention Week, which runs September 16 through September 22. To receive a Nomination Packet, or for more information, call (661) 723-8070 or log on to the AVAQMD website at <http://www.avaqmd.ca.gov>.

SB 1920 TO SAVE DISTRICTS TIME & MONEY

Senator William J. “Pete” Knight recently announced the introduction of Senate Bill (SB) 1920—legislation which seeks to eliminate unnecessary meeting requirements while saving time and money for local air quality districts statewide.

Under current provisions of California’s Health & Safety Codes, local air districts are required to hold a separate meeting for the sole purpose of receiving public testimony on their annual budget. While this requirement does not normally pose problems for highly populated districts with larger, more complex budgets, the requirement has proven to be a bureaucratic headache for rural districts like the AVAQMD and the Mojave Desert AQMD. Both district’s have relatively smaller, less complicated budgets and rarely receive enough public comment to justify the extra budget meeting, thus leading both districts to request Senator Knight’s assistance in addressing this issue. According to Senator Knight, ***“It is a waste of time, manpower and most importantly taxpayer money to hold a separate budget hearing... If they have the time at the same meeting to get more of their business done, the state shouldn’t tell them they can’t.”***

On May 7th SB1920 was discussed in the Senate. It was read a second time, amended and sent for a third reading to Special Consent Calendar. As of print time, no date had been set for the reading.

AIR QUALITY SETTLEMENT FUNDS TO BENEFIT LOCAL STUDENTS

The AVAQMD celebrated the launch of its Environmental Scholarship Program by awarding \$15,000 in air quality settlement funds to Antelope Valley College (AVC) and to the Snowline Joint Unified School District. On January 15, the presentation was made during the AVAQMD's redesignation ceremonies, which were held at the Plaza Park Hotel in Lancaster.

Funds for the new scholarship program originate from fines collected by the AVAQMD through the settlement of air quality violations in the region. During the course of settling enforcement actions with a regulatory air agency, a violator may agree to an alternative form of a penalty known as a "Supplemental Environmental Project," as part of the settlement. Pursuant to policies set forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California EPA, environmental education scholarships are one type of project which may be funded with penalty monies collected under such an agreement.

During January's redesignation ceremonies, AVAQMD Air Pollution Control Officer Chuck Fryxell, and Operations Manager Bret Banks, presented \$10,000 to AVC for the establishment of a scholarship endowment fund which will be used by the college to award grants to students majoring in environmental science or a related field. Staff from Snowline Joint Unified School District—which is located just north of Wrightwood and is impacted by air emissions originating in the mountain community—received \$5,000 toward the establishment of a scholarship fund for high school seniors planning to pursue a college degree in environmental science or a related field.

According to Fryxell, the District's establishment of the Environmental Scholarship Program exemplifies the AVAQMD's "ongoing interest in giving back to the community we serve, and our commitment to providing educational opportunities to tomorrow's leaders."

The establishment of the scholarship program was approved by the AVAQMD's Governing Board during its regular meeting in January of 2002. In the near future, the program will be expanded to assist students attending California State University campuses, and additional educational institutions located within the District's air basin, which includes Antelope Valley communities.

SALLY JOINS AVAQMD

In February of 2001, the AVAQMD welcomed Sarah “Sally” Sparks, as it’s first full time compliance inspector.

Born and raised in North-western Pennsylvania. Sally attended Grove City High School, then Edinboro University in Edinboro, PA. Answering the call of the west, Sally and her family moved to California in 1969. Sally continued her education at Glendale City College and L.A. City College.

A self-professed “*closet environmentalist*” with an interest in nature and the environment, Sally accepted the position of Environmental Manager for LUZ Construction after moving to the High Desert in 1988.

In 1991 she joined the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District as an Air Quality Specialist in the Enforcement Division. Her duties consisted mainly of inspecting facilities, investigating citizen complaints and overseeing asbestos abatement projects.

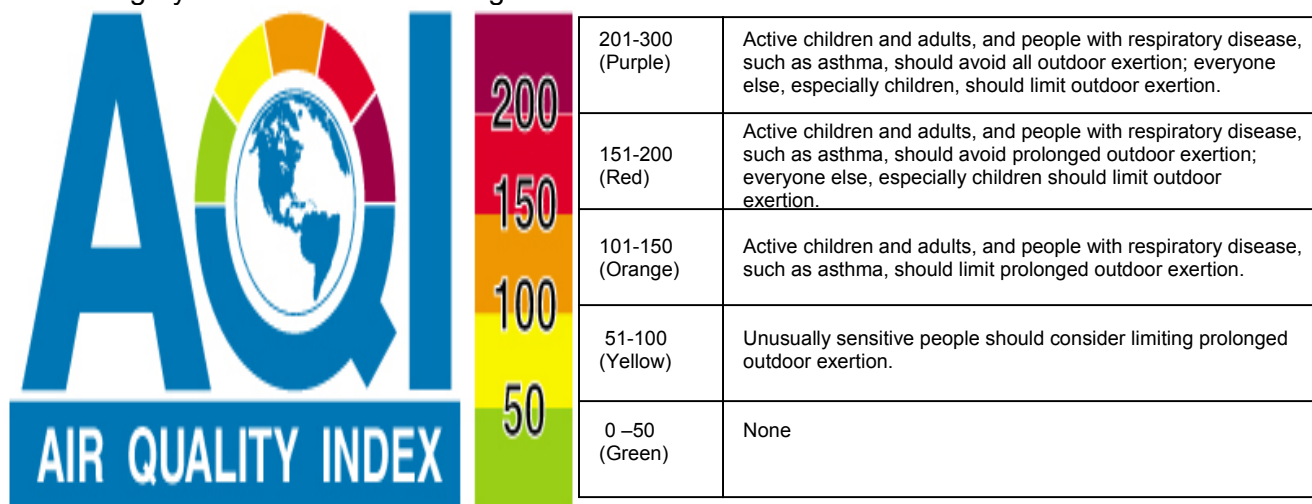
Continuing her career goal of making a difference by protecting the desert’s air quality, Sally became the first permanent full-time compliance inspector for the Antelope Valley AQMD in February 2001. “As inspector for this district it is my goal to offer source specific air quality compliance information with a practical, real world application that results in increased compliance with rules and regulations and better air quality in the Antelope Valley,” stated Sally.

The AVAQMD is proud to welcome Sally to the team.

SMOG SEASON SURVIVAL TIP: CHECK THE AQI

Ask any Antelope Valley resident what the best thing about living in the High Desert is, and the region's clean air invariably rises to the top of the list. Nonetheless, due to its legendary proximity to the Los Angeles Basin, the Antelope Valley is occasionally subject to unhealthy levels of smog between May and October, typically known as Southern California's **"smog season."** During these months, increased sunlight and stagnant air are prevalent throughout the southland, and contribute to the formation of ozone, the major component of smog. While poor air quality affects everyone, children, the elderly and individuals with heart and lung disease are particularly sensitive and vulnerable to increased levels of ozone.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a simplified method of forecasting and reporting air quality conditions on a numerical scale ranging from 0 to 300. The higher the rating, the greater the danger. The AQI is divided into several categories and information about how to avoid exposure for each category is listed on the following chart.



Air quality levels are considered unhealthy when ozone concentrations reach 101 on the AQI. Daily information on local air quality conditions is available 24 hours a day by calling AVAQMD's Air Quality Forecast Line at (661) 723-8070. During regular business hours, callers can receive air quality forecast information from a staff member. Outside of these hours, callers need only follow the pre-recorded instructions to access the District's automated forecast line.

AVAQMD Offers Grants for Cleaner Heavy-Duty Engines

In June, the AVAQMD will once again offer Carl Moyer Program grant funds for projects aimed at reducing emissions from heavy-duty [diesel powered](#) vehicles and equipment used within the Antelope Valley. The Call for Projects is expected to offer over \$315,000 in grant monies for the incremental cost of cleaner on-road vehicles, off-road vehicles, locomotives, stationary agricultural pumps, forklifts, and airport ground support engines.

This year, Moyer Program guidelines have been expanded to include funding for the replacement of on-road diesel engines with new lower-emitting diesel engines. Eligible new engines must be certified to emit equal to or less than 2.5 grams/bhp-hr combined oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and non-methane hydrocarbons. Most on-road engine manufacturers will be producing engines which meet this standard by October 1, 2002. Auxiliary power units used to reduce truck engine idling are also eligible for funding this year.

To request your inclusion on the Call for Projects distribution list, please call (661) 723-8070.

Fuel Cells: Just Around The Corner?

In March of 2002, Ford Motor Company announced the imminent release of a fuel cell version of the Ford Focus at the New York International Auto Show. Ford expects to begin production of the vehicle in the 2004.

Ford's announcement comes on the heels of Toyota Motor Corporation's announcement that it will begin marketing a hydrogen-powered fuel cell FCHV-4 in Japan by the summer of 2003.

A fuel cell uses hydrogen and oxygen to create electricity that expels water vapor as the by-product. This eliminates the harmful emissions, which result from burning petroleum products that combined with radiation from the sun create smog.

California has become the world leader in fuel cell research with the establishment of California Fuel Cell Partnership (CFCP) in 2000. Located in Sacramento California, the CFCP is the home to a collaboration of auto manufacturers, energy companies, fuel cell companies, and government agencies. The partnership is advancing new vehicle technology that could replace the internal combustion engine over the next several decades. For the first time ever, automobile companies and fuel suppliers have joined together to demonstrate fuel cell vehicles under real world day-to-day driving conditions. The California Fuel Cell Partnership expects to place up to 60 fuel cell passenger cars and fuel cell buses on the road between 2000 and 2003. In addition to testing the fuel cell vehicles, the partnership is examining fuel infrastructure issues and beginning to prepare the California market for this new technology. As a result, it may not be long before the trip to fill-up the car with gasoline is replaced with a trip to fill-up with hydrogen.

To learn more about fuel cell technology, visit the CFCP's website at <http://www.fuelcellpartnership.org/>.

APDLN ANNOUNCES UPCOMING COURSES

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) in Victorville is an official site of the Air Pollution Distance Learning Network (APDLN), is an educational satellite-broadcasting network, which broadcasts seminars and technical telecourses with an emphasis on air quality issues. The APDLN is a collaborative partnership between the U.S. EPA, North Carolina State University, and State and local air pollution agencies such as the MDAQMD.

During seminars and telecourses, participants may interact with the nation's leading authorities on the latest air quality information and technology. Many of the courses offered through the APDLN are those of the Air Pollution Training Institute (APTI), recognized as the educational authority in the field of air quality and pollution control.

APDLN offers participants free quality training in a cost-effective and environmentally friendly manner. These courses are open to all interested parties. For an up-to-the-minute course schedule visit the EPA's web site, <http://www.epa.gov/oar.oaqps/eog/schedule.html>.

The MDAQMD is located at 14306 Park Avenue in Victorville, about 1 hour from the Antelope Valley. For information regarding APDLN courses contact the MDAQMD's Site Coordinator at (760) 245-1661 ext. 5538.

AIR POLLUTION TRAINING INSTITUTE (APTI) – UPCOMING COURSES		
June 11, 12, 18, 19 and 20	12:30 – 5:00 PM ET Test Pattern 12:00 – 12:30 PM	T468-02: Stack Testing/Stack Test Observation for Traditional and Hazardous, Air Pollutants

FRYXELL RECOVERING AT LIGHTNING SPEED



After undergoing heart surgery in mid-May, AVAQMD Air Pollution Control Officer Chuck Fryxell is back home enjoying some R&R and recovering at a record pace. Chuck wishes to thank everyone who has sent cards and good wishes during his recovery, and looks forward to being back on the job in late June or early July.

Right inset: Tony McLoughlin describes the C-130 Aircraft pictured behind him.



“Staff Meeting on Wheels”

On May 15 the AVAQMD hosted MDAQMD staff during an educational visit to Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company/Palmdale.

COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES November 2001 – February 2002	
Complaints	22
Inspections: Total Facilities	103
Notices of Violation (NOVs)	5

PERMIT ACTIVITY November 2001 – February 2002	
ATC/PTO Applications Received	27
Permit Renewals Processed	328
Certificate of Occupancy Applications Processed	95